agricultural growth rate is subject to fluctuations due to influence of a number of factors like monsoon, weather, water and quality of land among others.

(e) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has fixed a target growth rate of 4 per cent for the agriculture and allied sectors.

Recommendation of the CACP

781. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices has recommended MSP of Rs. 1,000 for rice for the forthcoming Kharif season;

(b) whether MSP for other agricultural products have been recommended by CACP;

(c) if so, the details of crops for which MSP has been recommended and the amount of MSP recommended, crop-wise;

(d) if so, what are the other recommendations made by the CACP;

(e) whether the recommendations made by the Commission and submitted to the Government; and

(f) if so, when the recommendations have been submitted and what action Government has taken on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (f) The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) has submitted its Report on Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2008-09 season to the Government . Final decision regarding the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for the Kharif crops of 2008-09 season will be taken by the Government after obtaining the views of State Governments/UTs and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which are considered important for fixation of support prices.

Inclusion of more districts of Orissa under NFSM

782. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has requested the Centre for inclusion of four more districts under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for rice and three more districts for pulses, with a view to secure food security;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the time-frame within which the proposal of the State Government would be agreed to and sanction conveyed, if not already done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c)No, Sir. No porposal as such for inclusion of four more districts of Orissa under National Food Security Mission (NFSM)-Rice and three more districts for NFSM-Pulses have been received from the Government of Orissa. However, in a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the States with Union Agriculture Minister on 16th October, 2007, the Agriculture Minister of Orissa raised an issue to replace three identified districts of Orissa *viz.* Sunergarh, Jharsuguda and Deoghar with four districts *i.e.,* Balasore, Cuttack, Bhubaneshwar and Ganjam under NFSM-Rice. The matter was examined. Since these districts do not fulfil the criteria for inclusion under NFSM-Rice, and thus, were not included.

Failure of current pesticides regulatory system

783. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current pesticides regulatory system in the country had failed to check manufacturing, distribution and use of spurious and sub-standard pesticides which has caused huge loss to farmers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to revamp such regulatory system and to prevent distribution of sub-standard perticides which is endangering the environment;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. It is not a fact that the current pesticides regulatory system in the country had failed to check manufacturing, distribution and use of spurious and sub-standard pesticides which has caused huge loss to farmers. The Government regulates the manufacture and use of pesticides under the provisons of the Insecticides Act, 1968. The Registration Committee, constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, registers pesticides only after having satisfied itself of their efficacy and safety. Quality assurances of pesticides is ensured by the State Government through regular drawl and analysis of pesticides samples through a network of Insecticide Inspectors, Insecticide Analysts and Pesticides Testing Laboratories. Under the provisons of the Act penal action is taken by the States against manufacturers of spurious and substandard pesticides.

The Government of India provides assistance to the States for establishing and strengthening of Pesticides Testing Laboratories. The Government also promotes judicious use of pesticides through its policy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Price of milk

784. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of milk and milk products, indicating demands and supply, State-wise during last three years.

(b) whether prices of milk has also been increased in all States with the increase in its production;

(c) if so, the average price of milk in the country at present;